

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

TV 0:04: Alright, good morning. My name is Tatiana Viera and I'm here today with Ana Guida, AKA also known as Any and today I will be interviewing her for my oral history project for the course in higher history of higher education. So, um, today, Any, uh, we're meeting to go over some questions to see how you feel about FIU And why do you feel international is, um, the best name for the institution as it is our middle name. Uh, so to start off with, can you tell me a little bit about yourself? Where did you grow up and what do you enjoy doing?

AG 0:39: Okay, well, hi Tatiana. Um, so yes, you're more than welcome to call me Any. So, I was born in Cuba, right? When the revolution started over there, it came as, as a baby, as a toddler about one and a half, two years old. Um, so I grew up here in Miami and actually I grew up just a few blocks away from FIU back when this was not FIU when they was an old tower. And there was horses that you could right across the street where the Publix is. So that's how, um, close I am to FIU. Um, grew up close by. Um, so I grew up here. I did spend a few years in, uh, what Guatemala central America. So, um, that's why I feel like a little bit international kind of Cuban, kind of American kind of Guatemalan um, so on all over the place. Um, and, and I'm happy about that, you know, have different cultures, um, surrounding me. What was your other question?

TV 1:39: What do you enjoy doing?

AG 1:42: I enjoying, um, traveling a lot. Wait, well, my husband, I like to travel around the world. Um, and of course, being with family is very important. Um, for me, I, I'm part of a very large family. Um, we're five siblings, 13 kids amongst us and then now there's a bunch of grandkids and, um, we're very close. We're, you know, we're a big, loud, crazy Cuban family. [AG & TV laughing]

TV 2:07: Okay. And, um, how did you become to be affiliated with FIU and what brought you here?

AG 2:12: Sure. So, um, back, um, and this is going to age me, um, back in the late seventies, my, uh, FIU didn't start until the third year to upper division. So, um, I did my, um, AA at Miami Dade community college, the way it was called back then, um, which was great, you know, two years over there. And then I transferred to FIU. Um, I was only 18 because I had graduated high school at 16, started college at 16. So, I was starting my third year here at FIU, um, um, at 18. And, um, so I started FIU, uh, within a year at 19. My husband really wanted to get married and got married at 19. Don't advise that for people, um, get your education first, but yes. [TV laughing] So that's how, uh, you know, I started at FIU.

TV 3:09: That's how you started FIU that's yeah. That's very interesting. The way that, that played out for you. Huh. Started very young. And then when you started, uh, what were you majoring in at the time?

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

AG 3:20: I was, um, early childhood education. I wanted to be a first-grade teacher. I feel like if you start with a really good foundation, the rest of the years, the rest of your schooling, it's better. You have, you know, I wanted to make sure that they, the students that I taught would have a really good foundation so they can have better, uh, future, you know, with education and onto having great careers. So that's what I was studying. I do need to go ahead.

TV 3:47: No, I'm going to say so after, um, starting your major in, um, early education, did you then transition into an employee of the university, or did you first complete your bachelor's? How did that go?

AG 4:00: Sure. So, as I mentioned earlier, um, I got married at 19, um, because I didn't ask enough questions. And back then, again, this FIU was still fairly new. This was still in the seventies. Um, so it was only a few years old. Um, it did not have, the um, intensive, you know, counseling and or financial aid office. Wasn't such a big, you know, office with so many, um, people advising you correctly as, as we have now. Um, I did not know at that once you got married, you're not eligible for financial aid anymore. It was supposed to be for, you know, um, students that whose parents could not afford it. In my case, my father had passed away when I was 14 and my mother never spoke English. So, she just had a, a low paying job. Um, so I unfortunately had him stop were, um, coming to school and had, uh, start working because when in a year of being married, my husband, I had a little baby boy, so my husband did continue his education. His father you know was a doctor and paid education. He didn't need to pay mine. And, you know, so, um, my choice was to go ahead and, and work and help pay the bills. Since again, we were so young, he was 21 himself. So, he was still very young also. Um, so unfortunately, I did not continue my education. So I was, I taught like preschool. Um, and then also worked in medical offices being, doing medical billing, um, because I could not have, I didn't have a career without an, uh, you know, without a degree, um, 20 years went by and then I finally found a job that I could start at FIU, not needing a degree. Um, and that's how I got my foot in the door at FIU. So, you know, I thank God every day that I was, um, you know, uh, offered a job here at FIU. And then I went back to school, um, at the age of 40, um, to finish my degree, but I ended up getting my degree in sociology and then I did a, a minor in anthropology. So that's yeah, [AG laugh].

TV 6:15: At the age of 40 and you have two children?

AG 6:19: I have two children, um, Humberto, you know, uh, Jr. And Nicole Guida the, um, they're four years apart. So, my son had already started here at FIU. My daughter was still in high school. Um, when I, when I came back in 1998, November of 1998, um, back then FIU had just hit like the 25,000-student mark. Um, and we know that we have much more students now, um, enrolled at FIU, but it was a big thing at that time. Um, it was President Maidique, um, here at FIU who, who, who did a big strong, you know, push for FIU to make it grow more than just a little small state university in Miami. Um, he, he

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

did, did grow the university and try to put it, um, and put it on the map. Um, before then it was, again, it was, uh, I was a young university, um, with fewer students, but, um.

TV 7:17: So, you would say that from the seventies, until the nineties, when you came back, you saw that growth that had developed over that period of time.

AG 7:26: Yes. I was surprised at how big it was. It was getting, um, little that I know is going to grow much more than the last 23 years that I've been working here. Um, um, but yeah, I was, I was amazed and I saw so much new improvement and not only that, um, I saw much more diversity there was, um, back in, again, the late seventies, it was mostly just kind of like community, you know, when in Miami, um, and was a lot of um, what we had is Cuban-Americans, you know, that were, that had come as babies. And we were starting to do college there compared to the, to the nineties. Then I noticed that we had a lot of, um, other Hispanics, not just the Cuban Americans. We have from Nicaragua from Peru, from Columbia Venezuela, Santo Domingo. Um, so I, I enjoy seeing that we had a community, you know, much wider. Um, then when they, when I started back in the late seventies.

TV 8:25: And then your first, your first role at FIU was with which department?

AG 8:30: I started working back then it was called parking and traffic. It is now called parking and transportation. Um, it was, um, it was an office on the first floor of the gold garage. I think maybe it has a different name, now so many garages now, but it was the first garage. And, um, and people were didn't understand that we had an office there. We will say it's in the garage, but there is, but it's in the parking it's in the second. No, it's the first floor, there's an office there. Um, and I am very grateful for parking and transportation department. Um, again, they were the ones that opened the door for me to, to start my career here at FIU. And the fact that I was able to, um, uh, you know, have the early shift, I used to work from seven to like four-thirty go to library study, and then have classes from six to like ten-thirty at night. And that's how I was able to, to come back to school while working still full-time and have two teenage kids and a husband. So, yeah.

TV 9:30: I was going to say that that's definitely a lot on, on anybody, especially you think as a student, right? You come with responsibilities as far as being a student and those pressures, but when you add to that, having a full-time job, being a full-time parent, as well as having a spouse, you know, to take care of, you know, that could definitely put a stressor on someone. Uh, but you definitely did not let that discourage you from continuing and completing your degree.

AG 9:59: And that's why I encouraged us to, to first get their degree and then, then, then get married. But our travel, you know, decide what career you really want, what job, um, it's okay to switch jobs. If you find that something else is more interesting for you that's will be an advice that I will give the young folks. Um, and then, you know, you can always get married afterwards or be partnered with somebody, um, whichever way you want to

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

do it. But yes, it, it, it, it was hard, um, yet it could be done. And, and on top of that, I had health issues. I had sur surgeries and things like that, so, and I still managed to graduate with magna cum laude So, uh not magna cum laude, I'm sorry um, cum laude so, um, I encourage people, those who don't have a degree to go back and [stutter] do it, it can be done. It can be done. It's hard, but it could be done.

TV 10:52: And then after finally getting a degree is, is that when you then branch out into leader roles at a FIU cause I know you've been here for 23 years.

AG 10:59: Yes. So, once I got my degree, at course, I started applying to other departments and, um, this, I call it a true blessing. I was interviewed by admission, registration, financial aid. It happens to be that the person that was sitting next to him was financial aid. And I'll say her name, Sandra Capriolli she's a Saint. Um, she, they all wanted to hire me, but she grabbed my hand. She was, she was one of those closest to me. She said, no, she's coming to financial aid. And that was a blessing because, um, you know, spent many years at financial aid, learned a lot. And I use the example of mine, not continue my education thinking I was not allowed to have more financial aid because I got married. I would stress and, and, and, um, make sure that when I counseled and spoke with students, I told them everything about financial aid, how much, you know, what they can do to, to, you know, apply for it. And in time to make sure that they can also check to see what scholarship they will be eligible for, what grants. And so that's why I, it was such a, a strong thing for me to make sure that I gave the right advice, because I didn't want anybody else to make the mistake that I did.

TV 12:14: Of course. Um, so any, so what do you believe has been some of the most impactful events or moments during your time with FIU?

AG 12:25: One of the early ones was 2001 when 2001 happened on 9/11/ 2001. Um, at that time, Jeb Bush was the governor of the state of Florida. And he had an office here on campus. So, because United States didn't know what was happening with all these planes, you know, hitting, um, a space, especially one hitting in Pentagon. Um, they had us go all go home because they didn't know whether we, we might've been targeted because the president, his brother who was a governor of the state had an office here. So, um, that was, uh, I mean, it was a really hard day for everybody in the United States, but it was hard for us here at FIU. Um, being told, go home, go home and get off campus because we didn't know what was going to happen. So that's always been, you know, that's a big memory I have of that day and working here at FIU.

TV 13:20: Wow. That's interesting to hear because you think about 9/11 and that was something that was happening right around, you know, across our nation, but when you see its impact and what it did specifically, like you said, here on the campus, that's, that speaks volumes as to what took place. Um, and it's definitely, like you said, it's embedded in

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

your mind, right? Like you just think about that time because it's like, wow, that was a scary moment.

AG 13:46: Very scary. It was scary. We were all like some, some people were even crying. We didn't know what was going to happen. Um, and then the fact that there was something close, connected here in south Florida, Miami FIU, uh, international university's president, his brother. Cause it was George Bush president that we had something to, you know, a little bit of connection there. So, yes.

TV 14:11: Well, on a happier note, what, what was your favorite memory at FIU?

AG 14:17: Well, my favorite memory and I should put them, my kids graduating from here. I have both my kids, um, which they're not kids anymore. They're full-grown adults. Um, they both graduated from here from FIU. Um, so did my husband, by the way, he ended up graduating, you know, shortly after about two or three years after we got married. Um, but my, one of my proudest thing is that I graduated, it, it took three or four years for me to graduate, um, again, because of working in an and health issues. But, uh, walking on that stage with my diploma, with my mother who was in her eighties, uh, watching her youngest daughter, um, graduate at 45, uh, I was very proud. I was proud that both my children were there and, and you know, my husband of course, and one of my dear friends that, you know, um, had encouraged me to go back to school. So, um, I'm still proud about that to this day.

TV 15:22: That's a wonderful memory and definitely it speaks volumes as to the Panther pride within your household because you have, you know, four different Panthers, everyone graduated from FIU. So that's amazing. You don't really see that very often in families usually you'll see maybe one or two that may have gone to the same institution, but an entire household that graduated from the same university. Yeah. That's definitely something to like think about because it's like, oh my goodness, I've never, I personally have never heard of someone. Who's had like four individuals go to the same university.

AG 15:56: And, and because it's, it's, you know, it's still fairly young university compared to other universities. So, um, the fact that, you know, two whole generation, um, and all, you know, the whole family, you know, family of four, we all graduate from FIU. Um, I was speaking with somebody from the ignite, um, department, or I'm sorry if I don't remember which department, but they, they wrote it down. Like they said, this is something that we need to, to write down. And, and, um, there were supposed to get back with me. I don't know what happened, but because that is rare, you know, that, that parents, both parents and both, um, offspring graduated from, from this university at being a fairly young university.

TV 16:40: Wow. Okay. So, what sorts of changes have you observed at FIU or in surrounding communities during your time here?

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

AG 16:52: Well, something that had mentioned a little bit earlier is the fact that we've become even more international. Um, none, none now just the Hispanics, but we have people from Europe. We have people from China, we have people from middle east, um, that they, that even their government, um, since some to get study here, like engineering. Um, so that's another thing that I, because I love to travel, and I love different cultures. And in sociology, you learn about different cultures and things like that. Um, I love it. I love that this is such an international, um, you know, university and it, it, it really, the name is not just a name. It, it really is an international university students from around the world, um, coming to this university.

TV 17:42: Thank you, Annie, for that. Um, was there ever a moment you did not agree with the direction FIU was moving towards?

AG 17:55: You know, I can't think of anything that, um, that I, that I didn't agree. Uh, I mean, I love it. I, again, I was here when we first got the medical school of medicine and then, you know, the, well first the school of law and then, uh, school of medicine, again, uh, being a fairly young university, it was, it was something, um, outstanding that, that we were able to achieve. Um, and then we got the football team that was something also, uh, new, um, I still have the little Coke bottle says, you know, football FIU, 2002. Um, so, uh, my only thing, I think that because it's become a large, a very large university that I would stop going in numbers and then just continue with all the diversity of the different, um, majors, you know, different things, different, um, clubs and society. Um, that's just me thinking that it gets to the point that if it's too big, it's hard to be able to provide, you know, the best, um, quality and the best service that we can. Um, nobody has asked me that question. That's on just giving my opinion at this point.

TV 19:09: No, and that's great. Cause that's what, this is all about getting your side of the story and what you saw during your time here. Um, so in going back, you said that from parking and transportation, you then moved into financial aid where you then gathered, you know, and like pretty much learned everything that you did not know, right. As a student about financial aid and growing from there, with that knowledge base. And did that further help you in an, in a later role or in your current role right now?

AG 19:40: Yes. Um, so, um, it had been, um, been planned for several years to, um, do some, uh, new concept that some very few, uh, universities in college were starting to do, which is the Onestop enrollment services. Uh, what that, um, entitles, uh, is that, uh, three different, the three main departments, uh, in enrollment, which is a admissions registration and financial aid. So, to put them all in one spot um, you know, one office so that students, you know, we can, uh, assist them, had applied to the university if they have any issues with applying. And then of course registering for classes, or if they have to drop or if, they have to do a student petition because there was something happened that they had to remove themselves from the fund that term. And then of course, um, financial aid, um, FIU you know one of the university that has the largest amount of

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

student populations that depend on financial aid. So that's a department that's really important. Um, so instead of students go to one office and admissions and both speak with somebody in the register and then go to financial aid and they get, you know, bounce back up to registrar because they're not enrolled enough classes. Um, I was one of the, um, one of the [Stutter] uh, teams that helped built and plan from the ground up the department of Onestop enrollment services. So that's something else, I guess you can say. I'm very proud of that. We were, I was part of that, that team for months, planning how we were going to cross train, how we were going to handle, not just giving service, but giving service in different ways. And in-person on phones, on live chat, um, through emails. Um, so it, it took months to plan it out and, um, and we're still every day we're, we're, we're changing, they're trying to improve our services across the board.

TV 21:45: And do you feel that that was, uh, something that the university needed compared to prior to the existence of Onestop on campus? Is that something that you say yes, looking back that is something that we did need because of maybe a disconnect or there was, you know, no bridges to be connected at that time or back then, because everything was very decentralized versus with the concept of Onestop. This sounds more of a centralization.

AG 22:10: Yes. And, and, and, and obviously those three departments. admissions registration financial aid had different offices, so if, the student will make a line for financial aid, but then, you know, oh they have to go back to the registrar to see how they can add a class. So, they can then come back to financial aid. Then we can go ahead and increase their, their aid or, or, you know, award them their aid. Um, and of course there was a lot of complaints and students, you know, really upset. So, it didn't, um, it was a great concept. It is a re a great concept because again, we can get the 360 to the students when they come to us. Um, it takes a lot of knowledge. It takes a lot of, uh, of learning, you know, all the different departments, um, but we've had positive feedback and it does make the students easier to, you know, their, their, their, their journey through FIU. Um, having that Onestop now, one thing I do want to add is that, you know, it's a, it was a fairly new concept as a few universities. Um, you know, had it when we started and when then just two or three years, we were used as an example of how to do it. And, and the services that we did, like, um, how the students can sign in through their phones, um, you know, and, and they can, they can walk away and go get something to eat. And they're alerted that, that their, their turn is coming up. Um, we've had other universities, including local ones, Miami Dade, university of Miami have come visit and taken a notes and taken pictures of how FIU has done the Onestop enrollment services. Um, I was, um, elected to go to a, um, a conference up in Ohio State, which is a very large state university. And they show us how they, they were doing theirs, but they, the very they took notes on, um, the three of us managers that went. Um, and so the very next year, the conference was held here at FIU, and there was a large number of universities that sometimes didn't, um, you know, come to these conference, they enrolled part of a, maybe it's because it's Miami and they wanted to see Miami Beach. [laughing] But the other thing is that they

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

were, um, we got so much positive feedback, what a, what a great system we had. Um, so yes, and that's another thing I'm very proud of is being part of that, that team of, of forming the Onestop.

TV 24:51: And that achievement too. And, you know, the developing of this new, you know, department, cause sometimes, you know, you see departments and they're not as successful as others are, but then you see something like the OneStop and you see its potential and you see it's room for growth and where it could go in the future and how it could be utilized for students as a, as a great tool that the university provides. So, the fact that, you know, you've come this far, and you work, you're pretty much there from the beginning. Right. So, to see it grow. Yeah.

AG 25:23: Yeah. From the beginning, um, I happened to have been working late one night and somebody, you know, pat me and say, hey, Francisco, [Francisco Valines] who's the director who still is the director of financial aid. He wants to speak to you. And I go, oh my God, did I say something wrong to a student? Is there a parent that's upset with me trying to explain things to them? So, I went to his office and he goes, congratulations. I want to make you one of the managers at, at the one, the new upcoming department of Onestop enrollment services. So, um, yes, it, it, it, it is. So, and again, we had to go and plan a how we were going to do this. Um, there was a new director that, that she came in and, and, you know, so it was, it was, uh, it was a task, but, um, yeah. Um, I'm proud of how now of course, things, we trick things. We, we touch, you know, we changed things around as we started realizing this didn't work, just, you know, that way it was better to do things, maybe a little different, we added more services, uh, you know, added a lot of more training, the cost training. Um, so yes, it was.

TV 26:33: Wonderful. Okay. So what was student life at FIU when you hadn't attended first as a student and then as an employee slash student at the same time? Cause you were both.

AG 26:47: Yeah. Um, well, when I first started, FIU looked completely different. I think there was just four buildings. It was PC DM, um, BH and what is called now, the Graham center, but it really was just like a pit, um, you know, where and in the Graham center, it was open. It didn't have a third floor, it was just two floors, but it was, um, it was open, um, uh, during the pit and then a bookstore, small bookstore. Um, so that, that was so the willing there was maybe, I don't remember, um, if there was any sorority or fraternity, uh, you know, on campus, back in 77, I might, I might be wrong, but, um, very little, uh, clubs or anything like that. Um, most to tell the truth, if you go back, most people that were attending were, you know, full-timers, they worked full time and then were coming the evening. It, um, I mean, there were some classes in the daytime, I'm sure. Um, I worked at that time already full-time I worked all the way mercy hospital. And so I had, you know, come all the way fun Coconut Grove to over here, in time to attend classes at night. Um, so there was there was much less activities and again, no football team or things like that. So, um, student life was, there was no dorms at all. Uh, yeah, there was

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

no dorms or anything like that. So you can imagine how much I've seen it change. Um, it was, it was just as for building, you know, university.

TV 28:35: And then coming back in the nineties.

AG 28:37: And then it had grown, um, by, and by the way I lived, I moved even closer when I got married, I lived actually 10 blocks away from FIU right here in a hundred 12th avenue, close to Bird Road. So, I literally could walk from my home to here to FIU. So, I saw it growing. Um, um, and when my son started and, you know, it was amazing, oh, you know, it, it has this, it has that, um, you know, it was, it was starting to, to grow. Um, now from, from that, from the late nineties, when I started 23 years ago to now, now I used to know, because in parking traffic, you had to know each building, um, because that was part of our job to be able to, you know, guide people where they need to park or whatever. Um, now I could not name all the buildings I used to be able to know, um, in the, in the nineties. And now it's just every day, there's a new building. There's a new parking garage. There's so many stores, so many different restaurants. I mean, at one point, all we had was, was the, the, the cafeteria, if you want to call it that, you know, you know.

TV 29:45: So it's not what it is today?

AG 29:46: Now this is a city. It mean we have, you know, stores, we have different restaurants, we have so many beautiful places that you can sit and eat. Um, hey, we have Vic you know Vicky Bakery. We have all, you know, Chick-fil-A, we have all these different places to eat. And, and, and, um, and just the prettier in there, they're built what's area that you can sit and study or just look up the window. Um, yeah, it's changed. It's a whole different university from when I started as a student and then came back, um, as an employee, you know, in, in the late nineties. So yeah, I've had the pleasure to see it grow now. I can't name all the buildings like I used to.

TV 30:33: And then to tying in, um, cause I know you mentioned that you're the youngest daughter of your siblings, or like you're the youngest?

AG 30:41: Uh, and the fourth youngest, but the youngest daughter. So, there's five, there's three boys and two girls. Um, so yeah, and Mo um, most of them have come to the, to FIU. I have a brother who, who, um, went to UM and another one who came to FIU but got his undergrad, but he got his, um, grad at St. Thomas heavily. But so, and some of my nephews and nieces have come here, other ones have, you know, gone to different places. But, um, so I can't count because my family is so large. I can't count how many have gone through, you know, and graduate from FIU, but we are several what we are many.

TV 31:21: Well, that's wonderful. That's a blessing that, you know, all your siblings, you've all been able to attend universities and get your degrees. Um, and as well, I believe in prior conversations, we've had your, sister's also a nurse as well.

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

AG 31:33: Yes, my sister's a nurse. Um, she started at Miami-Dade, she got her, her first nursing degree and with Miami Dade they had a connection with Baptist hospital, but then, um, FIU came calling for her, um, to come teach. So, she also taught nursing here at FIU. [cough] Excuse me. Um, so, so yeah, so she even taught and, you know, uh, she was a professor here and health, um, for nursing.

TV 32:06: Well, see, so your imprint of your family is also being left here. You had sister who worked here as well as a professor, so your child, it's amazing. It's amazing how your family has been so involved with FIU since very early on and still to today. Cause you're still here. So that's great. Okay. So, because I know your children and yourself were attending school, and I know you said your son was here for sure. When you came back as well. Um, did you have any advice for your kids before they came and attended FIU?

AG 32:39: Yeah. I told him that they had to get a degree. They had to get went in four years. They each did four years and maybe a semester too. Um, you know, it, they didn't quite finish it in four years, but you know, when in a semester or two and sometimes it really wasn't their fault. It was just the class wasn't being offered. We got full or whatever reason, but I told them, you, you start and you're going to finish it before you do anything else, you're going to get your degree. And they did. And I'm very proud of both of them. Um, my son is a journalist, um, he's a TV producer and writer for television station. Um, he's, he lives in Los Angeles. So, and he, he also gets, um, he's also a writer and there's two books that he's written that they're starting to get interest to make movies or like Netflix series. Um, so that, and my daughter did, um, advertising, um, and minor in marketing. She, before she even graduated, she already had, um, an, uh, working with an, um, uh, uh, uh, company that had the buzzword going against account. So, the Bose bagging account she had, you know, coming out of graduating from FIU. So yeah. So, FIU degrees, they, they, they take you places. They, you know, you move up in the world.

TV 34:06: Yeah, no for sure. And definitely, I mean, going from FIU to then being a journalist and writing novels, and now having, you know, Netflix interested in those novels as your son has done, that's very, very admirable. So definitely good luck to him with that.

AG 34:25: And donate, you know, and my husband, um, my husband, um, by the way, he, he, he was a student here, um, and he graduated and he became the, um, Miller brewing company, public relation manager for all the Spanish markets in the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo So he had New York, he had, um, Texas, he had, um, you know, different places. Um, so, so he, you know, he himself with his degree was able to move up in corporate America. So, um, I, I, you know, shout out to my husband and his degree to.

TV 35:07: That's great. Okay. So, we talked a little bit about, you know, what international means to you, but to, um, so just give a big little, sum of the gist of how you feel right

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

about international. Um, why, why would you say international deserves to be in Florida international university?

AG 35:31: Yes. And, and, and, um, south Florida, well, south Florida has become very international. Um, it is, um, the safe haven for a lot of people coming from other countries that have had conflicts. Um, you know, as I said, Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, um, and then, you know, even countries from around the world, um, it is very diverse. Um, and that's one of the things that my husband, I liked living here. Um, you can eat food from all around the world, um, and you can, your neighbors can be somebody from Nicaragua while the other neighbor, you know, is, is, um, from somewhere from Europe. Um, so it, it, it fits in. And it's funny because, so when it first started, they, well, why International you know, south Florida. Um, so you can say that FIU grew into its name, that it, it really, we really do have, um, and here, especially at Onestop because we see students from admission registration and financial aid we see, um, students from all over the place, um, you know, middle east, um, China, Europe, South America. Um, and so it's, it's very interesting and, and I love the way that you can have conversations from people from different countries and either have similar experiences or so completely different, but then you get to learn the difference, you know? Um, so yes, it's, ---, um, it fits the Florida international name fits this university and this community.

TV 37:15: Thank you, Any And based on your experience with FIU, what are your hopes and dreams for the future of FIU?

AG 37:22: Um, I hope it keeps giving the, the customer service in and have all these different diverse and inclusive, um, uh, you know, groups and, and, um, services for these, uh, for these students. Um, there there's much more diversity and there's much more, um, clubs and, and, and just departments that are here to assist, um, students from around the world. And, you know, my hope is that it continues to provide this, um, I've, I've had sitting here in my office, parents sitting across this desk, um, telling me that, you know, a lot of these students are first generation students. Their parents have never gone to university. Um, so, you know, to be able to provide that and, and, and, you know, know how they feel. Um, I happen to not come from a first generation. My mother was, she was a go getter in the late forties, early fifties. She told her parents, um, even though she was a daughter of my grandfather, went to Tulane University, he, he, he got his, um, degree mandate can latte in engineering. He was the chief engineer in all the railroads of Cuba, but, um, and her status, you know, the young ladies would just wait until the, the, um, the young men's, you know, would ask them to marry them. And then they got married and had children, but my mother said, no, hold on. I want to get a degree. And she studied to be a teacher. She, you know, she went to University of Havana and got a degree. Um, but I know how much it means that coming from a, a, you know, first generation that, uh, parents had never went to have the, the, that luxury, that blessing that my mother had, um, to get an education. And so I explain things to them even further, just to make sure

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

they realize what their, um, child will be doing here, the university, and that just come for classes, but to get involved in clubs and in different, you know, organization, um, because that helps not, you know, not only while they're here, but that looks good on the resume in the future. Um, so I try to give all those advice, um, you know, I want to make sure that I give them the best advice that I can give.

TV 39:51: Thank you any, and I definitely wanted to just say thank you for taking the time to meet with me, um, to tell us your story, your journey, uh, both education, as well as life journey and where that's taking you now. And I do know that you will be retiring soon from the institutions after 23 years, you know, say thank you for your service to our university and everything that you did. Um, definitely I can speak, um, on my behalf because Any was actually one of the ones that brought me into this university and gave me my opportunity. So, I felt you are the right person for me to interview and get your story, um, as a great role model that you were for me when I started here. And I appreciate everything that you've done. And I wanted to hear you say the things that you would say to me, but that can hopefully be said to other students or anyone else who is listening to this oral history so that they can gather more knowledge and information about FIU and the journey that we've been on as an institution, but also to what that journey looked like in the eyes of a student and as well as an employee of the university. So, you know, thank you for, for doing this, Any and then, is there any little goodbye message you want to give to future students who might be listening or researchers who might be using this information for their research, um, to do better things in life for us?

AG 41:17: Well, again, I feel like it was such a blessing that I was able to come here and be part of FIU and the different roles that I've had as a student and as somebody who was started at the very bottom, I was giving decal stickers to students, um, up to being a manager of one of the, you know, a very large department. Um, it has been an honor and it's been a big blessing. Um, it, you know, it's bittersweet leaving. Um, I'm gonna miss all of you and people like you that I feel like, you know, I seen you grow, you know, I won't even tell your whole story, but I, you start as such a, you know, young and you have grown so much too and into your career, um, and motherhood. Um, but I do, I am very thankful to FIU. I, I can't thank if I, you know, um, any more than I can, because it did change my life from being just a preschool teacher, making almost just minimal wage into being able to come back and get an education, um, and then, you know, grow, um, in my, uh, you know, different roles in the university. Um, and I see what it's done for other students, um, and other future students. So, and for my own family, of course, so I, it FIU. So, it's going to be a big part of my heart and I live close by. So don't be surprised I'll come over to have lunch with some of my friends. And, and one thing I want to mention is not only that you work here, you become family. You know, we are a family and, and some of my best friends are started out as coworkers. And now, um, some of them are retiring to one or two. I have already retired. Um, and I'm going to continue, you know, we're going to do a little road trips with them. Um, so yes, it, it, I, I think I, --- do thank God because I

Interviewee: Ana Guida
Interviewer: Tatiana Viera
Date: April 13, 2022

do believe in God that he put me in here in this, you know, and, um, at FIU, I am more than grateful. And for future people, um, yeah, you're gonna find that it, this is a family.

TV 43:32: Well, thank you. Any of you again, for taking the time to meet. Um, and I hope that this interview is seen and heard by others, um, and find it just as inspiring as I did. So, thank you again very much.

AG 43:47: Been, my pleasure.

TV 43:49: You too. Bye.

[End of Interview]

Transcribed by: Tatiana Viera and Ashley Floyd Kuntz, PhD